

Dental Health Committee Formed for Harbor Area

Positive action on dental health—a serious problem—is urgently needed, Jaime Monroy told a recent meeting of a new committee of the Harbor Area Welfare Planning Council recently.

The committee is being formed to deal with dental health problems, according to Ray Choate, president of the council's board of directors.

Children Affected

According to recent reports, Monroy said, dental health is a serious problem even among very young children. Dental health education is lacking in this area, he said. Although the Dental Society furnishes speakers on such subject, there have been few requests for such talks recently.

The committee plans to seek the support of schools, PTAs, and the Dental Society in expanding its Dental Health Education program.

At the present time, dental services are provided by public and parochial schools, the Assistance League, and other groups. Under the California Public Assistance Medical Care program, dental services are available to persons in certain relief categories to prevent tooth loss for children between 5 and 12.

Services Available

Dental services and prescribed drugs are available for the relief of pain or elimination of acute infections in some cases also. Emergency services also are available for some other persons not covered under the act.

"Although dental care is needed by a large number of people, emphasis must be placed on the prevention of dental disease otherwise the problem will become even more serious than it is at the present time," Croate said. "It has been estimated that a large percent of our dental health problem could be overcome by proper dental care and by fluoridation of the water supply."

By George Sixtas



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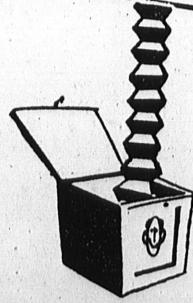
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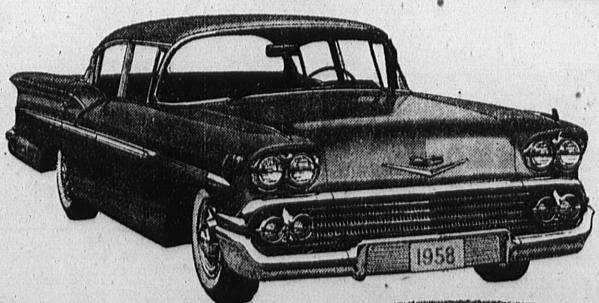
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